

REMARKS

The specification and claim 9 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated April 5, 2004.

The Abstract of the Disclosure and the specification have been objected to due to certain informalities, which the Examiner deemed needed correction, as specifically set forth in items 1 and 2, page 2 of the outstanding Action. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these objections.

The informalities noted by the Examiner have been corrected by:

- (1) amending line 5 of the Abstract of the Disclosure by changing the term “secure” to - - achieve- -, as suggested by the Examiner; and
- (2) amending the phrase “the front end portions 10f and 10f” in line 2, page 21 of the applicants’ specification so as to read: - - **the sides of** the front end portions 10f and 10f- -.

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding objections to the Abstract of the Disclosure and the specification is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

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Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, for the specific reasons set forth in item 3, page 2 of the outstanding Action.¹⁴ The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

As indicated above, claim 9 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention, and in order to correct certain informalities therein, including those pointed out by the Examiner.

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the outstanding indefiniteness rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claim, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

¹⁴ It is noted that claim 9 was previously added in the Preliminary Amendment filed on October 9, 2003.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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